

## SAFETY BULLETIN

### DEER HAZARD ON FORT RILEY

**SB 05-001**

(Revised) October 2006

**Watch out for the Deer!** There have been 40 vehicle/deer collisions since the beginning of Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 on Ft. Riley; fortunately, there were no injuries to the occupants. Most vehicle/deer collisions on-post occurs along Huebner, Vinton School and Williston Point Road during early morning hours when soldiers and civilian employees are on the way to work.

Knowing a little about deer behavior and following some simple guidelines can decrease the likelihood that you will hit a deer. Vehicle/deer collisions increase dramatically during the phenomenon known as "the rut" the period when deer breed. Deer are much more active and on the move during this period. The rut begins in October and may extend until January.

Deer are most active in the first hours after dusk and just before dawn. They tend to follow established trails and are more likely to get hit where these trails intersect with "people roads". Known deer crossings may be marked with signs, but drivers should be aware of any potential trail crossings on roadways. Such trails often follow brushy draws, creek bottoms, and other areas that provide concealment. Pay close attention whenever these trails intersect the road. Motorist should always be alert and look for deer when driving on Ft. Riley, as well as off post.

Reflective eyes in your headlights are usually the first sign of deer along or in the roadway. Slow down immediately if you see them, and be prepared to stop to allow them to possibly cross in front of you. Do not assume that they are "smart" enough to know, not to cross in front of you!

Stay alert, for a second or even third deer following the leader. If you can't avoid hitting a deer, stay in your lane and brake in a controlled manner (smooth braking). It is better to hit the deer in a controlled manner than to swerve and over-steer and lose control of your vehicle to avoid the deer. An oncoming motorist or a passenger in your vehicle is much more likely to be severely injured during an uncontrolled collision.



**ACCIDENTS HAPPEN WHEN LEAST EXPECTED**

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